



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

This meeting was facilitated both in-person and via an online Zoom format, consistent with the Governor's Executive Order N29-20, suspending certain open meeting law restrictions.

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

2:30 p.m.

BMU 205

MEMBERS PRESENT – Taryn Burns, Duncan Young, Megan Oliver, Olivia Rosso, Michelle Borges, Michelle Davis, Delaney Love, Melvin Quezada Haro, Jay Friedman, Mary Wallmark

MEMBERS ABSENT – None

OTHERS PRESENT – Jon Slaughter, Katie Peterson, Karen Bang (recorder), Hugh Hammond, Eliza Miller, Shar Krater, James Lawrence, Ember Funk

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - The Chair, Burns, called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.
- II. **MECHOOPDA LAND RECOGNITION** – The meeting was started with the reading of the Mechoopda Land Recognition Statement.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – **Motion to approve the 12/8/21 agenda (Borges/Quezada Haro) 7-0-0 MSC.**
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Minutes of the 11/10/21 regular meeting. **Motion to approve the Minutes of the 11/10/21 regular meeting, as presented (Rosso/Love) 7-0-0 MSC.**
- V. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Hammond asked members to verbalize who is speaking as Bang is taking minutes on Zoom.
- VI. **PUBLIC OPINION** – Limited to items on the agenda, three minutes per speaker, five minutes for entire topic – None
- VII. **BUSINESS**
 - A. Action Item: Approval of the 2022 AS Election Procedures. **Action Requested: Motion to approve the 2022 AS Election Procedures, as presented (Rosso/Quezada) 7-0-0 MSC.**
 - B. **Information Item: Senator Budgets** – Burns said Lawrence requested this item be placed on today's agenda due to the discrepancy between individual student representative budgets. She said it might make sense for a larger budget or more discretion in order to get funding. Currently, each senator has a \$250 budget which basically only covers one event. Slaughter provided an overview regarding how the individual elected representatives are budgeted and said that \$14,750 is allocated annually in the approved budget and distributed among 13 positions. The primary individual budgets are \$5,000 each for the AS President and Executive Vice President and \$1,500 for the Student Academic Senate (SAS) general budget. Directors and Commissioners start the year with \$250, except Community Affairs receives \$750. The Director of Social Justice and Equity gets \$10,000 which is allocated for diversity centered programming. The Commissioner of Student Engagement and Advocacy currently has money available through the allocation to the Student Organizations Event Allocation Fund. The two VP's are funded from their respective area budgets. Slaughter said the Senators all start the year with \$250 and noted budget restrictions: no alcohol, tobacco, cannabis or CBD products, other drugs, gift cards, firearms, Styrofoam, or single use plastic bottles. Specific to the Senators, programs or events are meant to promote their college and publicize and support the opportunities for student involvement within the college or throughout the University. He provided examples of various past programs/events and noted the options available beyond individual budgets. Young said better systems could perhaps be implemented to communicate the status of budgets, such as a report at GAC. Slaughter said a monthly report could be provided regarding what has come out of each budget. Slaughter said \$10,000 was set aside for diversity centered programming that might be done and is brand new at the moment. He noted they have not programmed with that money yet and it's more of a budget holder so that money didn't go away when we were ready to do some of that programming. Young suggested Slaughter could present to Quezada

Haro's committee on this and possible trainings were discussed. Rosso asked where the money that is not used for the budgets goes to and Slaughter said it falls to the bottom line to help balance the budget; the saved money goes into reserves. Slaughter said if directors or commissioners want to start the year with \$500 budgets instead of \$250, this can be built into the budget. He said the reason it's currently \$250 is that they looked back and directors/senators didn't use their budgets. If they needed larger than \$250, there are ways to increase the allocation. Young asked if someone like Lawrence wanted to do a larger event, if GAC would need to approve it. Slaughter said various budgets could provide money for an event. If there was a larger event and we didn't want to deplete their budget, he said they could approach GAC for additional allocation. Lawrence said he would like to advocate for \$500 for Senators. Young said the Executive Order he sent out was to approve Lawrence to the Director of University Affairs position and he'll be sitting on this committee so he can advocate for that. Peterson said they could look at the Commissioner budget as well. Young said a possible incentive for appointing councils would be that once a council is fully appointed, their budget would go from \$250 to \$1,000. Peterson said a lot of conversations have been around the concept of the purpose and scope of elected representatives, such as advocacy, voice at the table, bringing students together, recruitments, safety, etc. She said they need to think about what they are programming, why they are programming, and the purpose of their events. Quezada Haro asked about the flexibility of his budget to support events and Peterson said she, Slaughter and Jamie Clyde will be available to discuss.

- C. Discussion Item: 10/31/21 Activity Fee Fund Budget vs. Actual – Slaughter said the benchmark is 33% and Activity Fee continues to perform very well. He said Revenues are low and noted the University is now being invoiced quarterly so it will take some time to catch up and be equal to expenses. Other Expenses were reviewed. Young said historically there was EDPAC funding and Slaughter said it's now the Student Organization Event Allocation Fund. Peterson said this was changed last year, previously EDPAC and DAC were funding committees. She said San Marcos was sued and lost regarding how they fund and explained the history of these committees. Peterson said the elected representatives last year decided to work with Student Life & Leadership so they can confirm they're working with recognized student organizations and then meet with career staff. She said there is a reimbursement process to pay them for expenses for events and five or six have gone through so far. Slaughter said Government Affairs was at 25.86% and Campus Programs (CDL) was a little high at 36.31%. Community Programs (CAVE) was at 20.37%. Total Expenses at 23.33% with a Net Increase of 204.80%.

VIII. REPORTS: ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES – Davis said during last week's Legislative Affairs Council meeting that a representative from the County League of Women Voters attended. Young asked if there are things we could implement here, learning from them and Davis said going over different lobbying techniques may be one. She said CHESS is coming up in March which is a big time for lobbying. • Love said the Moonlight Safety walk will be held February 23 from 5:30 to 11 p.m. PG&E donated flashlights and President Hutchinson will be attending. Love said Chico PD and UPD are working with Wallmark and others regarding looking at the relationship going forward with UPD and Chico PD. Wallmark asked if there is a student representative on the search committee for the new UPD Chief and Young said he is serving on it and is also recommending that Quezada Haro be included. Discussion was held regarding expectations for the position as well as UPD officer trainings. • Quezada Haro said his committee will be meeting this Friday to discuss and get everyone's opinions regarding what they want to shape the committee. He said he has a diverse committee and is looking forward to meeting with all of them. • Rosso said they passed the Senator Council Codes in SAS and they'll come up to GAC and the Board for approval next semester. She said she enjoyed her time on this committee and that Lawrence will do great as her replacement. • Young said he has been meeting with everyone and pulling together teams to work on items; more information will be provided.

IX. REPORTS: STAFF – Peterson reminded of self-care at this time and noted that events are listed on Wildcat Sync. She said they need to get the word out to council and committee members that there's a luncheon for them on Saturday, January 29 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and they need to RSVP. Peterson said she also needs to know when council/committee meetings will be held for the spring semester. She requested that everyone update their Office Hours in Box. • Wallmark said over 600 people received their COVID booster shots today in the BMU and another session will be held tomorrow. She said they may do booster clinics again the week prior to starting classes, or week of starting classes. Wallmark said they were able to access HEERF funds for advertising and Test Before you Travel advertising will be pushed next week. Wallmark said at the January Student Affairs PAUSE Retreat one of the topics is how to get students back to campus as it's critically important for us to create opportunities for students to come to campus. She said next semester should look better and Chico State students have done a phenomenal job protecting against COVID. She said anything we can do to prioritize getting students and staff back to campus is important. Wallmark said her colleagues held a Fraternity and Sorority Affairs meeting, and the most active group is usually sophomores. She said our sophomores are not active right now, which is a problem and juniors and seniors are burnt out. Wallmark said she found out that Selvesters hasn't

been available for student club meetings, just for student studying. Discussion was held regarding the lack of places for students to study at night and on weekends.

- X. REPORT: EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT** – Burns said next semester is budget season and contract programs will be invited to GAC meetings to provide presentations for their areas. She requested members to provide her with ideas to discuss at GAC for next semester. Burns requested that spring schedules be provided to Bang by this Friday so she can finalize scheduling. She noted appreciation for Rosso being on this committee and thanked her for her work.
- XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Young said over winter break he will be working on items for the spring semester and if anyone has any ideas, let him know. He and Burns will be available after January 1 in case members would like to reach out to them.
- XII. PUBLIC OPINION** – Limited to three minutes per speaker, five minutes for entire topic – None
- XIII. FOR THE GOOD OF THE GROUP** – Lawrence said stop by and grab a donut before 10 a.m. at the event put on by the AS for students during the week preceding finals.
- XV. ADJOURNMENT** – The Chair, Burns, adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.